MARVEL

1

CATES
BEYRUTH
PETER

RATED T+

WEB OF VENOM

CARNAGE BORN

WEB OF VENOM

A PSYCOPATHIC SERIAL KILLER AND FORMER CELLMATE OF EDDIE BROCK, CLETUS KASADY WAS KNOWN FOR HIS BRUTALITY AND VIOLENCE. HIS CAPACITY FOR CRUELTY ONLY GREW WHEN HE BONDED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT GAVE HIM THE ABILITY TO CONSTRUCT BLADED WEAPONS OUT OF THE SYMBIOTE'S LIVING TISSUE. DEADLIER THAN EVER, CLETUS BECAME THE KILLER KNOWN AS CARNAGE!

CARNAGE BORN

A SYMBIOTE DRAGON CREATED BY KNULL, GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES, WAS REAWAKENED AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF S.H.I.E.L.D. EDDIE BROCK AND HIS SYMBIOTE FOUGHT TOGETHER AS VENOM TO DEFEAT THE DRAGON, BUT AT GREAT COST.

EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE AWOKE FROM THE BATTLE TO FIND THEMSELVES IN THE CAPTIVITY OF THE MAKER, WHO HELD EDDIE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SYMBIOTES AND THEIR HOSTS.

HOWEVER, THE MAKER IS NOT THE ONLY ONE INTERESTED IN KNULL...

DONNY CATES WRITER

DANILO S. BEYRUTH ARTIST

CRIS PETER COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

KYLE HOTZ & JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA
COVER ARTISTS

IAN BEDERMAN
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

LAUREN AMARO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

KRAKADOOM

"CLETUS KASADY WAS BORN ON A WEDNESDAY IN THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

"IT WAS ALSO HERE, ON THIS VERY TERRIBLE NIGHT, THAT CLETUS KASADY DIED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

"HE WAS BORN CHOKING, WITH HIS UMBILICAL CORD WRAPPED AROUND HIS THROAT.

"NO ONE CARED.

"AND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF SAID INFANT STRANGLING, CLETUS KASADY DIED NINETEEN MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS AFTER HE WAS BORN.

"BUT THEN...HE WAS REBORN.

"AND NO ONE TO THIS DAY KNOWS WHY.

"CLETUS KASADY CLAIMS TO REMEMBER THIS MOMENT.

"THE DYING.

"AND IF YOU ASK HIM WHAT THIS MEMORY OF DYING CONSISTED OF, EXACTLY...

"...HE WOULD TELL YOU THAT NINETEEN MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS AFTER HE WAS BORN...

"...HE WAS SENT TO HELL.

"WHEN PRESSED ABOUT THE MEMORY, KASADY VIVIDLY TESTIFIED TO A COURT-APPOINTED PSYCHOLOGIST THAT WHEN HE AWOKE IN HELL, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRAPPED...IN A CAGE...

"...IN AN ENDLESS BLACK ABYSS.

"IT WAS THIS INITIAL TRAUMA, THIS FEELING OF ***BEING CAGED,*** THE PSYCHOLOGIST STATED, THAT FORMED THE FOUNDATIONS OF CLETUS' PARTICULAR... DEVOTION.

"YOU SEE, IN CLETUS' MIND...HE WAS NEVER MUTILATING HIS VICTIMS...

"...HE WAS SETTING THEM FREE.

"IT IS PERHAPS COSMICALLY FITTING THAT CLETUS' SECOND REBIRTH WOULD BEGIN...

"...INSIDE THE WALLS OF A PRISON.

"THAT NIGHT, THE DARKNESS CAME ALIVE AND SHATTERED THE WALLS OF HIS CELL. THE ABYSS SET HIM FREE.

"IT WAS THAT NIGHT THAT IT ALL BECAME CLEAR TO CLETUS."

"WHAT HE WAS DOING. WHO HE WAS.

"WHAT HE HAD BEEN PUT ON THIS EARTH TO ***BECOME.***

"HIS DESTINY. HIS FATE.

"IN THAT MOMENT, WHETHER HE KNEW IT OR NOT...

"...HE BECAME AN AGENT OF THE ***VOID.***

"THAT DAY HE LEARNED THE TRUTH.

"THERE IS NO RIGHT. NO WRONG. NO BLACK OR WHITE.

"THERE IS ONLY ***LIFE*** AND ***DEATH.***

"***BLOOD*** AND ***THE ABYSS.***

"THE UNIVERSE IS ***BLACK*** AND ***RED.***

"TRUTH IS CHAOS...

"...GOD IS CARNAGE."

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A GRAND, ***NEW*** DARK HAS COME.

DO YOU SEE IT? THE SHAPE OF IT AS IT BLOOMS ACROSS THE ABYSS?

THE PROPHECY CHURNING AND ROARING TO LIFE?

MANY HAVE WORN OUR GOD'S LIVING DARKNESS. STUMBLED INTO IT. UPON IT.

BUT THE DARKNESS ***CHOSE HIM.***

KASADY WAS BORN ON THIS EARTH TO SHATTER THE WALLS OF OUR CAGES. HE HAS DIED AND BEEN REBORN FOR US. FOR ***HIM.***

KASADY. HE IS THE ONE.

HE WILL RISE.

FWFH

AND OUR GOD WILL BE FREE.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE HAVE WAITED FOR SO LONG.

SINCE OUR LORD CAME TO US FROM THE DARKNESS...

...TO BEAT BACK THE LIGHT.

FOR SO LONG WE HAVE WAITED FOR HIS RETURN.

FOR SO LONG WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REPAY HIS SACRIFICE.

BUT NO LONGER.

WE DO THESE THINGS IN HIS NAME.

IN SERVITUDE TO THE GREAT DARK.

SO THAT WE MAY JOIN THE BLACK KING, ***KNULL***, IN THE FINAL NIGHT!

FOREVER AND TOGETHER IN THE VOID.

FOREVER.

AND TOGETHER.

FOREVER!

TOGETHER!

IN THE VOID.

BUT... WHERE IS CLETUS KASADY?

IS HE NOT DEAD? AREN'T THOSE THE RUMORS AND WHISPERS?

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE WAS TAKEN INTO THE DARKNESS OF SPACE.

RIPPED APART AND LEFT FLOATING AND DEAD.

BUT THEN HE WAS REBORN.

AND HE CONTINUED HIS DIVINE WORK, FREEING SOULS IN THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND FROM THEIR CAGES.

AND THEN...HE DIED.

AND THEN... REBORN AGAIN. LOOKING TO THE ANCIENT WAYS IN SERVICE OF THE BLACK AND THE RED.

AND THEN...

...WELL... WE DO NOT KNOW. NOT FOR SURE.

SOME SAY HE WAS...STOLEN. TAKEN FAR AWAY...

SOME SAY HE DIED. FOR GOOD THIS TIME...

BUT WE KNOW BETTER. DO WE NOT? HAVE WE NOT *LEARNED?*

THE ABYSS... THE ABYSS IS NOT *DEATH.*

"DARKNESS IS NOT THE END.

"SO WHAT THEN OF CLETUS KASADY?

"WHAT BECAME OF HIM?

"HOW DID HE COME TO RETURN FROM THE BRINK?

"HOW WAS HE REBORN FROM THE DARK THIS TIME?"

THE ANSWER IS, OF COURSE, NO GREAT MYSTERY.

"HE *BURNED.*

"AFTER WE RECOVERED HIS BODY, WE PERFORMED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH TO DETERMINE HOW THIS MAN COULD HAVE SURVIVED RE-ENTRY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

"BUT WE ALREADY *KNEW* THE ANSWER.

"CLETUS AND HIS SYMBIOTE HAVE A VERY UNIQUE BOND. A *PERFECT* ONE-- WHERE THERE IS ONE, THERE IS THE OTHER.

"AND AS HE FELL, THIS GENTLE CREATURE BREACHED HIS FLESH TO FACE THE FLAME ONE FINAL TIME...

"...TO BRING OUR CARNAGE HOME.

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN AGONY FOR THE SYMBIOTE. EVEN AFTER THE ***DARKHOLD CURSE*** GAVE IT ITS IMMUNITY TO FIRE AND SOUND.

"IT MUST HAVE KNOWN IT WAS GIVING ITS LIFE FOR HIS.

"BORN AND REBORN FROM THE TENDRILS OF THE ABYSS.

"IT WAS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, CLETUS KASADY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL REBIRTH YET.

"BUT AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS BIRTH WAS, IT WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS OWN... COSMIC SYMMETRY.

"BECAUSE MINUTES AFTER CLETUS ROSE AND FELL BACK TO EARTH...

MUHH! UH!

NUU...

NNNOO...

"...HE DIED.

"LOCALS FOUND HIS BODY AND TURNED HIM IN TO THE AUTHORITIES.

"HE WAS IDENTIFIED BY HIS DENTAL RECORDS, AND HIS NAME SENT SEVERAL HUNDRED RED FLAGS SCREAMING TO THE TOP OF EVERY AGENCY'S WATCH LIST.

"BUT WE...WE *WATCH* THE WATCH LISTS.

"THERE WAS QUITE A BATTLE TO RETRIEVE HIS BODY.

"MANY OF THEIR MEN DIED.

"FEWER OF OURS DID."

WHICH BRINGS US TO TODAY.

C. KASADY

C. KASADY

TO THIS.

TO NOW.

"WHEN WE LED OUR ASSAULT TEAM TO RETRIEVE THE STOLEN REMNANT OF KNULL'S SYMBIOTE, WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WOULD UNCOVER.

"THE ASSAULT ITSELF WAS SIMPLE ENOUGH. BUT THE RESULTS...

OKAY, WE GOT THE SAMPLE. DESTROY THE DATA AND LET'S--

NO. WE CAN'T DESTROY THIS.

"THE RESULTS WERE A *REVELATION.*"

THIS IS...THIS IS IT.

THE MAKER. THE MAN WHO STOLE THE SAMPLE.

HE CALLED IT A *CODEX.*

WE HAVE LONG THOUGHT THAT WHEN A SYMBIOTE LEAVES A HOST, ITS INFLUENCE, ITS CONNECTION... IS LOST.

THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

EVERY SYMBIOTE LEAVES BEHIND A GENETIC IMPRINT OF ITSELF. WRAPPED AROUND THE DNA HELIX OF ITS HOST.

IT WAS THEORIZED BY THE MAKER THAT THIS CODEX WAS USED TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOST TO THE COLLECTIVE ***SYMBIOTE HIVE.***

DO YOU SEE WHAT THAT MEANS?

IT MEANS THAT WITH THIS SAMPLE...THIS TINY PIECE OF KNULL'S DRAGON...

...WE CAN TALK TO GOD.

IF EVERY SYMBIOTE LEAVES A TRACE OF ITSELF ON ITS HOST...

...THEN THIS SAMPLE MUST CONTAIN THE PSYCHIC REMNANTS OF KNULL'S CONNECTION.

OF HIS ***VOICE.***

C.KASADY

ALL WE NEED...

...IS AN AMPLIFIER.

HUH!

RAGHH!!!

NAAGH!!! NUUU!!!

C. KASADY

THAT'S IT...

NOOO!!!

SHATTER YOUR CAGE AND BE REBORN.

KRACK

CRASH

RAGHHH!!! AH!

AH!

AAH! HAH!

FOREVER! TOGETHER!

HAHAHAHAHA!!!

FOREVER!
TOGETHER!
FOREVER!
TOGETHER!

RAGHH!!!

LOUD!!! SHUT UP!

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?

IT'S HIM. HE'S TALKING TO HIM.

CLETUS IS CONNECTED TO KNULL.

A DARK LORD OF THE ABYSS AND THE MIND OF CLETUS KASADY FIGHTING FOR DOMINANCE INSIDE THE SAME BODY...

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE *VIOLENCE* INSIDE THAT MIND?

RAGGHH!

CLETUS, I KNOW YOU HURT.

I KNOW THE ABYSS IS DARK.

I KNOW YOU ARE INCOMPLETE.

BUT I CAN HELP YOU.

THE SYMBIOTES LEAVE A PIECE OF THEMSELVES BEHIND IN EVERY HOST THEY BOND WITH.

I HAVE ONE AS WELL. I CAN FEEL IT SWIRLING INSIDE ME.

YOU ARE OUR GOD'S ***DARK CARNAGE*** MADE FLESH...

...I AM MERELY HIS SCORN.

I OFFER MY CODEX TO YOU SO THAT YOU MAY BE MADE WHOLE.

THE SURGERY IS PRECISE. DIFFICULT.

BUT WITH THE MAKER'S RESEARCH, WE BELIEVE WE CAN--

AH!

SLICK

AGHH!!

AHH...

YOU... HEHE... YOU LOONIES WERE RIGHT

I DO FEEL BETTER AFTER A SNACK

...BUT DADDY NEEDS MORE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL THAT KNULL @#$% WAS ALL ABOUT

I SAW IT!

AH!

I SAW HIS NAME CARVED ACROSS THIS @#$ STAIN OF A PLANET

I SAW THE BLACK HANDS OF GOD WRAPPED AROUND THE THROAT OF THAT DUMB LITTLE BABY FROM THAT OVERHYPED KUBRICK MOVIE

AND THEN I REALIZED THOSE WERE MY HANDS ON THAT BABY'S THROAT.

AND SO I SQUEEZED.

I WANT TO KILL THAT BABY AGAIN, MEAT. I WANT TO TALK TO THAT GOD AGAIN.

HOW DO I DO THAT?

THE--THE CODEXES.

WE THINK THAT...THAT IF YOU ABSORB ALL THE PIECES THE SYMBIOTES LEFT IN THEIR HOSTS, YOU CAN MAKE HIS SYMBIOTE COMPLETE... AND REJOIN THE HIVE...

...AND AWAKEN KNULL...

...AND WE-- WE CAN SET HIM FREE.

GOODY.

WHERE ARE THEY?

WH-WHERE?

THEY'RE-- THEY'RE ATTACHED TO THE DNA OF EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE, CLETUS.

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.

HUGK!

SPLORTCH

HA! WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED...

...I SUPPOSE I BETTER GET TO WORK.

TO BE CONTINUED!

VENOM

#9

HEY, VENOMANIACS! WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TERRIFYING GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES KNULL & THE MYSTERIOUS CODEXES? CHECK OUT VENOM #1-8 ON SALE NOW! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO GET 'EM! AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!

© 2018 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

ZONE